

The Newark Organizers Alliance

Precursor Masterplan
Wkng. group
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To: NOA participants and friends
From: Brien
Re: NOA Meeting Follow-up
Date: 9/10/98

The last several months of research and discussion, including yesterday's NOA meeting, have led participants to several major conclusions:

- First, that a municipal planning process which systematically and sincerely seeks to generate and incorporate the involvement of community members can be a powerful force for community revitalization and a more vital civic culture.
- Second, that Newark Master Plan revision process offers an as-yet unrealized opportunity for creating such a process.
- Third, it is appropriate and useful for the group that has been meeting over the last several months on these issues to advocate with the City and others to create an enhanced planning process, drawing ideas and inspiration from some of the more progressive planning initiatives which have been successfully undertaken in other communities around the country (e.g. E. St. Louis, Seattle, Boston's Roxbury Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative as well as others.)
- Fourth, CDCs, CBO's and other local institutions are strongly positioned to support people in their neighborhoods to articulate their neighborhood's vision, issues and recommendations.

To get moving on these conclusions, we've taken the following decisions:

1. To meet with **Dave Abramson**, a Newark-based architect who's worked with the current zoning ordinance. We set for 6 October 1998 at 35 Halsey Street 2nd Floor, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 a.m. (Notice to follow.). Other resource people may also be invited.
2. We'll distribute some of the materials from the **East St. Louis** planning effort when these arrive (expected shortly).
3. We'll invite **Rosemary Hocking and Kathleen Kelly** out to a meeting (proposed date not set) to discuss ideas for improving the processing for current Newark planning related activities.
4. We want to have as clear a picture as possible as to the actual design and status of the City's current Master Plan, Zoning Ordinance and related processes. The City's administration may be the sole source of information about a number of these questions. Therefore Brien, or anyone else having the occasion to do so, should feel free to contact the relevant people in City to get information about these issues.

Issue and Outcome Tracking

In the course of our discussion lots of very important issues have been raised and, at least on a preliminary basis, explored. Many are interrelated and some complex. In order to make sure we don't miss opportunities for making progress on these and to provide a gauge of just how much progress we're making, I'm suggesting that we use some sort of device such as the following: "Issue an Outcome Tracker". This is very preliminary as to form and content, so feel free to suggest improvements.

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PROBLEM	ISSUE	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	STRATEGY	OBSTACLES	ASSETS	STATUS
A. Master Plan Revision Process.	<p>1. Inadequate role for community members in generating plan.</p> <p>2. Revamp City's Master Plan process so that community members are core contributors to creating Master Plan.</p>	<p>1. City Administration,</p> <p>2. Community-based organizations.</p>	<p>1. Advocate with City to propose revised process incorporating ideas participation from communities.</p> <p>2. Encourage CDCs and CBOs to engage residents in planning related activities.</p>	<p>Not known. Those anticipated include:</p> <p>1. Supposed lack of money.</p> <p>2. Lack of information about what's practically possible.</p> <p>3. Resistance to reducing control over plan results.</p>	<p>1. Successful efforts elsewhere in the country.</p> <p>2. Expressed interest on part of a number of locally-based organizations. Some groups in the City are sponsoring/ participating in community-based planning efforts, others have begun to do so, and still others are contemplating it.</p> <p>3. The City has expressed general sympathy with the idea of more involvement.</p> <p>4. Funders see "local ownership" as key to long-term revitalizing success.</p>	<p>1. Researching issues.</p> <p>2. Beginning planning on first meeting with the City.</p> <p>3. Assembling exemplary resources for appropriate distribution.</p>
B. Planning Board Processing	<p>1. Inadequate role for community members in Planning Board decisions.</p> <p>2. Establish Directory of Community-based organizations for Notice Distribution.</p> <p>3. Eliminate "combo mtgs" joining preliminary and final approvals.</p> <p>4. Provide adequate time for adequate application review.</p>	<p>1. Print Planning Board Notices for affected parties in all relevant languages.</p> <p>2. Planning Board Staff.</p> <p>3. City Council.</p>		<p>1. Lack of useful Master Plan.</p> <p>2. Apparent "planning consciousness."</p>	<p>1. Growing interest by groups in influencing local decisions.</p> <p>2. Master Plan revision process.</p> <p>3. Economic growth in Newark.</p> <p>4. Possibility more responsiveness in newer City Council.</p>	Research and discussions.

PROBLEM	ISSUE	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	STRATEGY	OBSTACLES	ASSETS	STATUS
C. Other Planning Related Issues.	1. Ordinance to require developments to provide appropriate open and play space to compensate for extra burden on community facilities.	City Council	To be determined.	Unknown.	Unknown.	Unknown.

CURRENT PLANNING RELATED EFFORTS AND ISSUES IN NEWARK AIMING AT A COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Neighborhood	Local Sponsors/Core Participants	Resources	Relationship to Master Plan and other Public Institutions	Status
West Side Park/ UCC Neighborhood	Local Anchors: Corinthian, Tri-City, UCC, IYO, Under Construction	State of NJ funding and approval; NCDN technical and staffing assistance.	To be determined.	This Section Under Construction. Update Forthcoming.
Broadway Corridor	La Casa de Don Pedro and St. James CDC	LISC, AHN	To be determined.	This Section Under Construction. Update Forthcoming.
Ironbound	Ironbound Community Corporation	Volunteers plus regular staff resources.	To be determined.	This Section Under Construction. Update Forthcoming.
Vailsburg	Vailsburg Block Association Council	Regular staff resources.	To be determined.	This Section Under Construction. Update Forthcoming.